



Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Cobb Countywide Public Meeting #1

Cobb Countywide

Meeting Date: April 19, 2006
Meeting Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Cobb County Central Library
266 Roswell Street
Marietta, GA
Attendance: ≈ 48 citizens

Agenda

Opening, Meeting Purpose and Introductions

Study Scope, Process and Schedule

Citizen Participation Program

Citizens Participate

Closing

Meeting Summary

Participants were asked to sign in upon arrival and provided with project materials including a fact sheet, public meeting schedule, comment sheet, project business card and a meeting agenda. Area maps were on display for participants to review.

Chairman Sam Olens of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners recognized other elected officials, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their attendance. He described the challenges the County and its municipalities will face over the next twenty-five years with significant growth projected, and emphasized the importance of this study to assist in developing solutions for these challenges. He discussed how this study differs from the SPLOST, by focusing long-range, and urged the audience to focus beyond today to the future during this Study. He pointed out that the CTP is a joint effort of the county and its cities, the first time there has been this level of cooperation between the jurisdictions. He expressed the belief that this unified approach to transportation planning will yield a better product and significant benefits for all of the citizens of Cobb County. He then introduced Rod Wilburn of DWA, the Study Project Manager.

Rod Wilburn, of Day Wilburn and Associates, introduced the project team and made a power point presentation of the study scope, process and schedule. The presentation is a part of the record copy of these meeting notes and can be found on the Project website at: www.cobbdot.org/ctp. Rod then introduced Morris Dillard who described the citizen participation program and the various ways citizens can get involved in the study. He then asked the participants to break into two groups and provide feedback on the following topics:

- Describe your City and Cobb County, as you would like them to be 25 years from now. Include a description of your dream transportation system.
- What are the biggest obstacles to your ability to move about your City and Cobb County?
- What techniques would you recommend to increase citizen participation in this study?



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- Are there any comments or questions about the meeting or the process for public outreach?

The responses are recorded below.

Participants were encouraged to spread the word about the study within their community and the County. They were also invited to visit the project internet website, located on the City and County websites, for updates to the study. The meeting was adjourned.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

How did you find out about this meeting?

- Flyer – 1
- Email – 5
- Direct mail – 1
- County website – 1
- City website – 1
- Cobb Line – 3
- Road sign – 22
- Newspaper – 3 (AJC)
- Other – 1 (word of mouth)

Group 1

Describe your City and Cobb County, as you would like them to be 25 years from now. Include a description of your dream transportation system.

- Better pedestrian connectivity
- More green space
- More bike lanes
- Alternative freight modes (use more rail)
- More transit
- Light rail
- Greater regional connectivity
- Larger bus system
- No high rises
- Smart growth
- Preserve main character of communities (suburban not urban – not Atlantic Station)
- Build for those with disabilities and seniors (routine – not because we have to)
- Wider streets with sidewalks
- Sidewalks away from travel lanes
- Energy efficient facilities – not petroleum dependent
- Build parks and schools within neighborhoods
- Passive green space preservation
- Alternative transportation for teens so they don't have to drive or be driven (walk, transit, etc.)
- Options to live/work/play but also options to preserve subdivisions with large lots
- Safe ways to cross busy streets
- Individual vehicles tied to larger network
- Changing perception of transit – convenient, clean, inexpensive, safe
- Use of old railroad row for transit



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- More transit – increase frequencies
- Technology enhanced transit
- Safe bike lanes

What are the biggest obstacles to your ability to move about your City and Cobb County?

- Congestion during peak periods – too much traffic within a short time
- Intersection of Dallas Highway and Barrett Parkway – need flyovers
- Mabry Middle School needs another road
- S. Atlanta and North Church – need a bus stop
- Stilesboro to Stanley Road – eliminate cut through
- Extend HOV with BRT lanes farther up I-75
- Redesign Old Canton/Canton Rd intersection
- Re-time lights on Johnson Ferry
- Widen 92 up to 400
- Fix Whitlock Avenue
- Possibly by-pass around Whitlock
- Old 41 between Ken. Ave & Stilesboro
- Synchronize lights between Sandy Springs and Atlanta
- Canton Road bike lanes (safe and pleasant) to Cherokee County
- Providence and Roswell – continue sidewalk on left side of street
- Cooper Lake Road (under Comet Trail) congestion/expand turn lanes
- Express lanes from Woodstock to I-75 (no exits)
- Increase frequency of transit within County (city to city)
- Fix I-75/I-285 interchange
- Austell Road Route

What techniques would you recommend to increase citizen participation in this study?

- High Schools
- Boy Scouts
- Church Bulletins
- Radio Ads
- Businesses
- More road signs
- Put road signs near lights
- Hand out flyers to folks in traffic
- Homeowner Associations

Are there any comments or questions about the meeting or the process for public outreach?

- None

Group 2

Describe your City and Cobb County, as you would like them to be 25 years from now. Include a description of your dream transportation system.

- No driving autos
- Complete access anywhere



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- Preserve neighborhoods
- Bus-rail system connected to downtown
- Intelligent transportation systems
- Regional rail system through Cobb County
- Quicker non-stop movement of commuters from outside of Cobb County traveling through
- Smaller shopping centers and more of them
- Mixed uses with residence closer to employment centers
- "Jetsons" transportation
- Preserve some larger lots
- Create bypass/dedicated lanes for trucks
- More sidewalks/trails
- More bike paths (covered bike paths)
- Mopeds/scooters – dedicated lanes
- Business partnerships for transportation
- Monorail criss-cross Cobb County with multiple transfer points
- Time of day/time of week sensitive transportation system (everything synchronized)
- Reversible lanes
- Public transportation with limited transfers
- Commuter rail connect all of Georgia
- Easy communications/direction numbering/lettering system of streets (Washington, DC is a model)
- No toll roads
- System to move commuters around Marietta
- Better access management along East-West Connector-example of a major traffic corridor being degraded because of excessive driveways
- More employment centers in perimeter counties
- Mandatory carpooling

What are the biggest obstacles to your ability to move about your City and Cobb County?

- Sign for construction removed when work completed to open all lanes
- Construction during rush hour
- Traffic lights not synchronized
- Need dedicated left turn lanes
- Dysfunctional intersections (Burnt Hickory/Barrett Parkway)
- No telecommuting
- Need more flexible hours – need business support
- Not enough school bus use – should be mandatory. Too many parents driving children to school!
- Cell phone use creates traffic delays and safety problems
- School bus right-of-way (buses hold up lanes of traffic for other buses)
- Too many railroad crossings in Marietta
- Not enough one-way streets
- Too much sprawl – everything is designed for a car (live outside of County but must use car to access locations during midday)
- Access management problems

What techniques would you recommend to increase citizen participation in this study?

- Front page of GDOT website
- Involve university students



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- Community events
- Focus groups
- Homeowner Associations
- School Meetings
- Senior Centers
- Major employers
- July 4th parades
- HOV/BRT list
- Hispanic groups
- More signs
- ALTA Tennis Groups

Are there any comments or questions about the meeting or the process for public outreach?

- None